



=1951=

WASHINGTON STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

STATE OF WASHINGTON

U. S. DEPT. OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT.
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Attachment 4-A

State of Washington Estimated Employment of Hired
Seasonal Workers in Agriculture in
1951

Period	Statewide Total	Local	Out of Area	Out of State	Out of Country
1st Half April	12,615	11,135	630	850	---
2nd Half April	15,740	12,485	1,348	1,675	232
1st Half May	16,335	13,005	1,125	1,948	257
2nd Half May	19,010	14,250	1,715	2,653	392
1st Half June	42,879	31,529	5,906	3,890	1,554
2nd Half June	56,678	39,474	9,230	4,751	3,223
1st Half July	48,556	29,929	7,441	6,125	5,061
2nd Half July	44,887	30,798	6,383	3,860	3,846
1st Half August	47,453	32,990	6,585	4,278	3,600
2nd Half August	53,745	37,000	7,430	6,038	3,277
1st Half September	49,858	30,757	9,925	7,144	2,032
2nd Half September	43,483	27,237	8,842	6,910	494
1st Half October	39,530	21,094	9,845	7,900	691
2nd Half October	38,885	21,520	9,165	7,502	698
1st Half November	14,360	10,560	1,970	1,805	25
2nd Half November	8,680	6,750	790	1,115	25

Attachment 5--A

State of Washington Estimated Employment of Hired Seasonal Workers
in Seasonal Food Processing and Fresh Fruit Packing

1951

	Statewide Total	Local	Out of Area	Out of State
1st Half April	1,761	1,761	---	---
2nd Half April	2,641	2,561	80	---
1st Half May	3,231	3,026	150	55
2nd Half May	4,533	3,783	600	150
1st Half June	8,152	7,302	585	265
2nd Half June	11,075	9,560	975	540
1st Half July	12,454	9,984	1,550	920
2nd Half July	10,944	8,759	1,425	760
1st Half August	9,019	8,699	295	25
2nd Half August	11,824	11,309	345	170
1st Half September	15,999	14,824	725	450
2nd Half September	17,817	16,307	810	700
1st Half October	19,149	17,654	725	770
2nd Half October	17,120	15,730	670	720
1st Half November	10,015	9,205	460	350
2nd Half November	5,890	5,690	150	50

About 650 interstate workers were brought into the state through labor contacts with two employers.

3. Other Sources

Foreign workers were used in greater numbers in 1951 than in any year since World War II. Mexican Nationals brought in under contract totaled nearly 1,300 in 1951 although the greatest number employed at one time in the state of Washington was less than 900. British West Indians brought into the state under contract numbered about 350, all of whom were used in the pea harvest in the southeastern area. The Mexicans, on the other hand, were used in every major crop activity but their number was reduced to about 600 after the bean harvest. The latter number remained through the apple harvest until late October.

In addition to the above foreign workers who were brought into the state under formal contract, an estimated 3,500 Canadian Indians voluntarily came into the state and participated in the harvests of strawberries, cherries, raspberries and string beans.

No Puerto Ricans were employed during the 1951 season.

D. Mechnaization

No new mechanical aids to the state's agriculture affecting labor requirements were developed in 1951. More extensive use was made, however, of the sugar beet harvesting machines than ever before. One estimate is that over 85 percent of the crop was harvested by machine this year. As a consequence no labor shortage arose during the entire harvest, a situation unusual in this activity. Successful machine harvesting of the sugar beet crop is dependent upon dry weather during the season since heavy rains will render the machines almost useless in muddy fields as was the case in the 1950 harvest. Under muddy conditions growers have to use hand labor - thus creating a demand at a time when workers are scarce. Acute shortages can easily develop when wet weather plagues the beet growers at harvest time.

A relatively new factor reducing the labor requirements for apple thinners in 1951 was the increased use of chemicals in spraying off the apples while in the blossom stage. Other sprays, such as the cover sprays, were applied to a greater acreage of orchards than before by airplane and helicopter. In fact, a few years ago shortages of spray-men occurred nearly every year, particularly in the early spring at dormant spraying time. For the past two years no shortages of spray-men have been reported largely because of these mechanical and chemical developments.

E. Shortages and Surpluses

Early in the spring of 1951 it was expected there would be shortages of fully 3,000 or more workers at the peak of activities in late June. In anticipation of such a shortage, and in response to requests from growers throughout the state, the Washington State Employment Service certified to the need for importation of up to 3,500 foreign workers. Had there been no late spring frosts in April and if the cherry, strawberry and apple crops had been up to expectations, all 3,500 would have been needed. As it turned out, however, only about 1,650 foreign workers were imported and employed. Of this number only 600 were needed from August on through the remainder of the season till the end of the apple harvest. All other certifications were cancelled as soon as it was known that the additional workers would not be needed.

Puerto Rican and Foreign Labor

The precise number of different employers from whom orders were received which could not be filled with domestic workers is not known. Because of the expense involved in the importation program individual employers throughout the state joined the Northwest Farm Labor Association, designating that organization to do the contracting and transporting of the Mexican Nationals. The sum total of all such orders represented requests from individual farmers from every major crop area of the state. It is estimated that about 130 individual employers were involved in the Mexican importation program this year. One employer in the Walla Walla pea area was involved in the importation of British West Indians.

Requests for certification for the importation of a total of 3,700 foreign workers was made by the Washington State Employment Service early in the season. Later, certifications for all but 1,650 were cancelled when it became known fewer would be needed. While these 1,650 foreign workers were used at different times, the greatest number working in the state at one time was only about 1,300, of which 350 were British West Indians and the rest Mexican Nationals.